

MINUTES
WINKLER & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, June 21, 2011, 12:10 p.m.
Smitty's Family Restaurant

PRESENT: Betty Hiebert, Chris Doell, Pete Froese, Don Friesen, Chris Sumner, Brenda Storey, Dianne Friesen

A. MINUTES OF April 19, 2011(as circulated)

M/S...Don Friesen, Pete Froese...that the minutes from the April 19, 2011 meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

B. NEW BUSINESS:

i) New affinity benefit program

- A new affinity benefit program is being offered through the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce.
- It is an Executive Suite special rate discount at the Place Louis Riel.
- A booking code is needed for reservations.

ii) Bar-B-Q Update

- Bar-B-Q was well attended with 150 – 160 people attending.
- Due to weather, it was moved to the arena.
- Feedback was positive, good to have this networking opportunity.
- Winkler Consumers Co-op sponsored event. Their support is very much appreciated.

iii) Golf Tournament Update

- Had 80 golfers register.
- Partnered with Plum Coulee Chamber of Commerce.
- Response received was very good and positive.
- Major sponsors were WBS Construction, Great West Broadcasting, RONA Home & Garden, and JKW Construction.
- Other sponsors were: BSI Insurance – Hole-In-One; Access Credit Union – Hole Sponsor; RBC – Beat the Banker; Place Louis Riel – Hole Sponsor.
- After discussion, consensus was to keep tournament on a Monday.
- Feedback was that we should try to offer tournament every year.

iv) SCORE Project Update

- Project is South Central Opportunity for Re-integration to Employment which is a one year project.
- Project is open to anyone who is 50 – 65 years of age, unemployed, recently retired or in transition and is eligible to work in Canada.
- Objectives of this program are:

- To give employers the ability to access wage subsidies and gap training support aimed to assist this group of new employees,
 - To increase the employability of the mature workforce with training opportunities that will give them the ability to access new part-time or full-time employment,
 - To assist older workers in the development of marketable skills through various forms of support, including resume writing, job market research, and employment retraining options in order for these workers to obtain successful part-time or full-time employment.
- Program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba.
 - Total funding of project is \$242,000.

v) MTEC Customer Service Session Update

- As a result of our BR+E surveys, it was determined that customer services sessions are needed.
- As a result, Winkler & Morden joined together with Manitoba Tourism Education Council to offer session on June 7. Winkler hosted morning sessions and Morden hosted afternoon sessions.
- Sponsorship was received from Community Futures Heartland.
- Winkler had 23 participants.
- Response from participants was very positive.
- We may offer sessions on Dealing with Upset Customers sometime in the future.
- Discussed how we could get more businesses interested in Customer Service. Suggestion was to have a Secret Shopper program or to have a nomination program where employees could be nominated for an award based on their customer service.

vi) Invitation to speaking engagement with Franco Cianflone

- The Chamber received an invitation from Southland Honda inviting us to a presentation that they are sponsoring to hear a speaker by the name of Franco Cianflone, educator, entrepreneur, and consultant. He will be in Winkler on August 17 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at Days Inn & Suites.

C. CHAMBER REPORTS:

- i) Segue Training & Employment Project – Dave Regehr & Brian Prokopetz
- STEP is a training & employment project offered by Segue Career Options, a division of Eden Health Care Services.
 - This project is funded by Human Resources and Skills Development of Canada.
 - Program is geared for individuals ages 18-30 who are overcoming obstacles to maintain full time employment.
 - There are 3 separate intake sessions, 10 participants per intake.
 - Each intake consists of 4 weeks of in class training and 8 weeks of on the job experience.
 - The employer offers the participant supervision and a meaningful job experience.
 - After the 8 weeks of on the job experience, there is no obligation to the employer to offer participant further employment.
 - There are two objectives to the work experience; one is to get them into a different mindset and secondly to give them an opportunity to develop positive references.
 - Their next intake will start in July and they are open to applications.
 - Following the 12 weeks they do keep in contact with clients for 3 months.

ii) Agriculture Report – Pete Froese

- Farming this year has been very challenging.
- In Canada there are 6 – 8 million acres unseeded.
- For Manitoba 2.5 million will be unseeded.
- Our region has been affected by the excess moisture.
- Across the prairies 86% seeding has been completed.
- Market prices are currently good and strong.

D. OTHER:

E. NEXT MEETING: September 20, 2011

F. ADJOURNMENT: 1:10 pm